WHEREAS, SARS-CoV-2 (the Coronavirus) the virus that causes the disease COVID-19 is responsible for an outbreak that began in Wuhan, China, and continues to be a serious public health concern; and,

WHEREAS, Covid-19 continues to aggressively spread and City Council finds that it is still in the public interest to protect public health and the general welfare of the public to extend the temporary suspension of normal operating procedures of City Council and City Boards and Commissions meetings as set forth in Ordinance No.: 2020-044 and requirement that face coverings or masks be worn in public in the City of Columbia as set out forth in Ordinance No.: 2020-059; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Columbia is working with other government agencies in an effort to prevent the spread of the disease; and,

WHEREAS, Sec. 2-86 of the Ordinances of the City of Columbia allows for the adoption of emergency ordinances on one reading without notice or hearing by affirmative two-thirds of the members present, and shall expire automatically on the 61st day following enactment; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE ORDAINED by the Mayor and Council this 4th day of August, 2020, that the City of Columbia extends the temporary suspension of the normal operating procedures of City Council and City Boards and Commissions meetings and allows for the Mayor, Council Members, Board Members and Commission Members to remotely participate in voting and operational procedures by telephone or other means of electronic communication and extends the requirement that face coverings or masks be worn in public in the City of Columbia; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that this emergency ordinance to temporarily suspend the normal operating procedures of City Council and City Boards and Commissions meetings shall be terminated by the issuance of another ordinance or shall automatically expire on the 61st day after enactment of this ordinance.